【第２話】
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
AND SO,
I'M NOW RIDING IN A CART.
ゴトン
THEY ALL GOT OUT OF THE CRYSTAL BALL...
キャッ
キャッ

HUH?
3 DAYS?!
AND THE REASON FOR THIS...
3 DAYS AFTER THE EXAM
WE ARE TRAVELING WITH MR. SUIN AND HIS TEAM BACK TO THE CAPITAL A WHOLE MONTH AHEAD OF SCHEDULE
YES
I HAVE REPORTED TO MY SUPERIORS ABOUT YOU TWO,
AND YOU HAVE BOTH BEEN ADMITTED INTO THE ACADEMY, SO WE ARE TO ESCORT YOU THERE
BECAUSE YOU PASSED THE ENTRANCE EXAM ALL THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH YOU ATTENDING THE ACADEMY WILL BE COVERED BY THE COUNTRY AND SUPPORTING NOBLES
DUE TO HOW SUDDEN OUR DEPARTURE IS, WE'LL ALSO PROVIDE FOR WHATEVER YOU ARE UNABLE TO PREPARE YOURSELVES
BY GRADUATING FROM THE ACADEMY YOU WILL BE ABLE TO BECOME A MAGIC KNIGHT OR A COURT MAGICIAN

AN UNDERSTANDABLE THOUGHT
I DIDN'T EXPECT MY SON TO HAVE ENOUGH MANA TO PASS THE EXAM...
BUT SINCE THE ECLIPSE PERIOD, MAGICIANS BLOOD HAS SPREAD TO EVEN THE COMMON FOLK.
SO OUR KIDS ARE MAGICIANS?
WHILE WE DO HAVE A SPIRIT ASSOCIATION IN THE VILLAGE, THE ONLY PERSON WHO I KNOW CAN USE MAGIC IS COUGAR A FORMER HUNTER.
MIRA,
THE ECLIPSE PERIOD?!
NOW THERE'S A NEW TERM!
DO YOU WANT TO
ATTEND THE MAGIC ACADEMY?

I'M GOING!
ハズハズ
SO IT ISN'T MANDA-TORY
I DON'T ACTUALLY HAVE TO GO?
HUH?!
DON'T YOU WANNA GO?!
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'M NOT ENTIRELY AGAINST IT...
UH...

IT'S ALSO POSSIBLE THESE ARE THE MOST FAVORABLE CONDITIONS I'LL GET FOR LEARNING MAGIC.
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO GO.
BUT, HAVING THIS ABILITY MEANS I'LL GET DRAGGED INTO ALL SORTS OF STUFF...
PLUS IF I LEARN WHATEVER MIGHT COME IN HANDY LATER
AND USE MY ABILITY TO GET A JOB AS A COURT MAGICIAN...
I JUST MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET A NICE JOB THAT PAYS WELL!
I'LL GO
MIRA!

DAD,
CAN I GO?
ALRIGHT
ポン
ポン
!!

GO OUT THERE
ガラガラ
ガラ…
I WAS EXCITED TO LEAVE THE VILLAGE
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT THE CART TO SHAKE SO MUCH...
THOUGH I WAS EXCITED AT THE START
わー、どこまでつれてくのー！
…SO MAGIC IS
A MAGICIAN OFFERING THE SPIRITS HIS MANA IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PHENOMENON HE HAS IMAGINED
OOOH

THERE ARE 4 KINDS OF SPIRITS THAT CAN HELP US.
FIRE, WATER, WIND, AND EARTH
AND THE 4 ELEMENTAL MAGICS ARE NAMED AFTER THEM.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS
THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THESE GUYS...
キャッ キャッ
SO FIRE SPIRITS REALLY LIKE MY MANA?
はいっ!
EXACTLY.
TO GRANT THE MAGICIAN'S WISH,
THE SPIRITS MUST BE PROVIDED AN IMAGE OF IT AND AN APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF MANA.
OF COURSE THE DIFFERENT SPIRITS LIKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MANA.
WHICH IS HOW MAGICIANS' ELEMENTS ARE CATEGORIZED
WHAT ABOUT MIRA?
DO ALL THE SPIRITS LIKE HER MANA?
THAT'S RIGHT.
MIRA IS A RARE CASE IN HOW ALL SPIRITS LIKE HER.

AH
DOES THAT MEAN THAT GAI CAN ONLY USE FIRE MAGIC?
はい！
NOT QUITE
TAKE A LOOK AT THESE
??
WOW THOSE STONES ARE SO PRETTY
THESE ARE CALLED MAGIC STONES
THIS BLUE ONE IS A WATER STONE
SO IS THE RED ONE FIRE?
THEIR CAPACITY IS LIMITED HOWEVER SO YOU'LL NEED TO RECHARGE THEM AFTER SOME TIME
AND THEY'RE FILLED WITH MANA OF OTHER ELEMENTS, ALLOWING ME TO USE MORE THAN JUST MY EARTH MAGIC
は
THEY'RE EVEN REUSABLE...

UGH
M-MIRA?!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
ER-
YEP
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE GREEN ONE IS?
BLEEUGH
WOAH!
I FEEL SICK...
I HAVEN'T RIDDEN ANYTHING IN THIS WORLD BEFORE
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
IT'S A GIANT SNAIL!
THOUGH IT SHOULD BE THE SAME FOR GA!
MIRA

HERE'S SOME WATER
AH
THANK YOU MR. PANAMA
WATER IS A LUXURY WHEN TRAVELING RIGHT?
DRINK ALL YOU WANT,
GUZE CAN USE WATER MAGIC, SO IT'S PERFECTLY FINE
WATER MAGIC CAN CREATE WATER? THAT'S AMAZING...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT NOW?
Y-YES
RELAX
NOW THEN
WHY DON'T I SHOW YOU SOME EARTH MAGIC?

WOW
AH THE BROWN ONE
AH
HE'S EATING THE LIGHT?!
IS THIS PERHAPS
CONSUME MY MANA AND GRANT ME
A DRAIN!

THE LAST PART HAS TO BE DONE BY HAND?!
IT'S COMMON PRACTICE TO BURY TRASH OR ANY REMAINS FROM YOUR PREY TO AVOID ATTRACTING BEASTS
ザッザッ
ニュウ
AND THERE IS IT
ウウ
WELL SOME PEOPLE PURPOSELY ATTRACT ANIMALS AND BEASTS THAT WAY.
WHAT?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE LIKE "GROUND GROOVE!"...
AND THE FIRST PART OF THE SPELL SOUNDED SO COOL...
JUST LIKE IN AN RPG!
IT CAN BE USED WHEN YOU LACK TRAVEL EXPENSES OR MAGIC STONES.
WIN!
YOU CAN GET MAGIC STONES BY DEFEATING THEM.
MANA EATER?!
THERE'S THOSE RECENT MANA EATER SIGHTINGS AFTER ALL.
YEAH.
BUT
IT CAN POTENTIALLY GET OUT OF HAND, SO IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.

I'VE GOT IT!
ANOTHER NEW TERM...
THAT QUESTION YOU ASKED EARLIER...
GREEN IS EARTH, RIGHT?!
アアアアー...
...ちゃった
HE WAS STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT?
...ISN'T IT WIND?
WHAT?
CORRECT, MIRA

ドキッ
HUH?
CAN YOU PERHAPS SEE MANA?
SAY
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I THOUGHT OF IT BECAUSE I SAW THE YELLOW SPIRIT EAT SUIN'S YELLOW MANA ORB
BUT THAT EXPOSES MY ABILITY
AND I'M ONLY 5 SO I CAN'T BE TOO CLEVER...
IF ANYONE FINDS OUT THE TRUTH THEY MIGHT SEND ME TO A RESEARCH FACILITY
(15 SECONDS HAVE PASSED)
UH...
WELL...

JUST A HUNCH?
... SO IT WAS SIMPLY A HUNCH?
HEY! LET'S GET GOING SOON! ねーねー

ガサガサ
ワンッワンワン
HEY, OVER HERE
IT'S STILL FRESH...
SO IT DEFINITELY CAME THROUGH HERE...
SINCE IT'S HERE, WE ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO TAKE IT OUT.
YEAH, STAY ALERT.

MM...
I STILL FEEL SICK...
ONCE WE BEAT IT, WE'LL RISE TO RANK A!
ガラ
ガラ
ガ…
じー
THE EARTH SPIRIT?
なでなで
!!
HUH?
THIS SMELL...
STRAWBERRY?!

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING WITH A SOOTHING SMELL?
MR SUIN
SPEAKING OF SMELLS...
IT'S LIKE AROMA THERAPY
いいニオイ～♪
AH!
I DON'T LIKE SMOKY THINGS...
WANNA TRY THIS?
PEPPERMINT IS GENERALLY USED FOR CAR SICKNESS BUT DO THEY HAVE THAT HERE?
UH...
AHA HERE IT IS!
BUT I...
THAT'S IT! THE MINT TOBACCO!
HERE
SOME MINT FOR COOKING
HUH?!

IT SMELLS SO NICE
ちがいちがい
?
だし
だし
WHAT IS IT?
!!
DO SPIRITS CREATE A SMELL WHEN THEY USE THEIR MAGIC?
IT'S LIKE A STRAWBERRY MILLE-FEUILLE WITH MINT!
THANK YOU.
THE SMELL BECAME STRONGER!
AND I CAN SMELL CUSTARD AND STRAWBERRY TOO

あーい!!
あーい!!
SHE TRANS-LATED IT?!
AH
DID HE NOT HEAR ME?
HUH?
WHAT'S A MANA EATER?
LET'S GET BACK TO THE LESSON NOW
IS THE WIND SPIRIT THE ONLY ONE THAT CAN HEAR ME?
YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MANA EATERS?
IT'S AN ANIMAL THAT WAS ALTERED BY MANA TAINTED WITH DEATH OR MALICE.
THEY'RE A TYPE OF BEAST.
WHILE BEASTS AND ANIMALS CAN BE HARD TO TELL APART, MANA EATERS ARE DIFFERENT.

IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE THEM THEY'RE LIKE ALLIGATORS.
THOUGH ALLIGATORS DON'T GET THAT BIG.
AND BECAUSE OF THE CHANGES THEY UNDERWENT,
THEY'RE FAR STRONGER THAN ANY ANIMAL.
UNLIKE BEASTS,
THEY CAN NOT ONLY POSSESS MANA, BUT EAT IT AS WELL.
BECAUSE THEY DON'T USE MANA, THEY'RE CLASSIFIED AS BEASTS, BUT THEY'RE REALLY CLOSER TO MONSTERS.
MON STERS?
IT'S THE TERM APPLIED TO INTELLIGENT NON-HUMAN CREATURES THAT CAN USE MAGIC.
WHEN MANA EATERS STEAL MANA FROM MONSTERS,
THEY'LL BITE AND SUCK OUT ALL THE MANA.
WHILE SPIRITS ONLY TAKE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF MANA FROM MAGICIANS,
A MANA EATER WON'T STOP UNTIL ITS PREY IS DEAD.

.....
B-BUT IF ONE APPEARS,
YOU GUYS CAN BEAT IT, RIGHT?!
.....
WELL
SO THE ONLY THING EFFECTIVE AGAINST IT IS A SWORD.
BUT IT'S CLAWS AND FANGS ARE SHARP AND IT'S MASSIVE, SO YOU'LL BE IN FOR QUITE A BATTLE...
IT'LL OBVIOUSLY EAT ALL MANA AND MAGIC THAT YOU TRY TO USE.
IF IT GRABS A MAGIC STONE,
IT'LL TAKE MANA FROM IT AND COMPLETELY DESTROY IT.

ALL WE CAN DO IS RUN FOR OUR LIVES!
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
倒壊 YOU CAN'T BEAT IT WITH MAGIC?!
IT MEANS
ガシーン バタン!
AH,
MIRA?!

I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
FOR NOW I'LL JUST FOCUS ON RECOVERING MY STRENGTH...
MR. SUIN
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S ALREADY HUNTERS OUT LOOKING FOR IT!
THOUGH THEY'RE ONLY RANK B
AH...
THE WATER SPIRIT...
AND THE FIRE SPIRIT?
YOU'VE JUST TRIGGERED THE FLAG...
IT SMELLS LIKE
CARAMEL AND MILK CHOCOLATE...

I DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANY MANA THOUGH...
YOU'RE ALL SO NICE...
THANK YOU...
WELL THEN,

IT'S ALL DONE
SO LET'S HAVE LUNCH
YEAH!
わいわい
IT'S FINE
GAI YOU SHOULDN'T EAT SO FAST.
ぐっぐっ
メラメラ

THEY USED THEIR MAGIC TO HELP ME...
ALRIGHT...
DO SPIRITS NEED TO EAT FOOD?
DID THEY MAKE EVERYTHING?
I RECALL READING ABOUT IT IN LIGHT NOVELS AND MANGA...
IT'S SOMETHING LIKE A BREATHING EXERCISE AND IMAGINING A BALL OF MANA INSIDE YOU...
LIKE MR. SUIN...
YOU DRAW IT OUT FROM YOURSELF AND,
CONCENTRATE IT AT THE TIP OF YOUR FINGER...
ポワ

MIRA?
!!!
UH...
じ、
DO YOU FEEL SICK AGAIN?
WHAT'S WRONG?

I WAS JUST DAYDREAMING...
YOU'RE STILL ASLEEP?!
わはは
H-HE DIDN'T FIND OUT, DID HE?
.....
I CAN'T JUST SAY I WAS GATHERING UP MANA!
I NEED TO FOCUS ON THE MEAL
.....?
HUH?
WHY ARE THE SPIRITS OVER THERE?
HM?
しゅが
ARE THEY SAYING SOMETHING?
DANGER
WHAT?

MIRA?
MIRA?
TH
THE SPIRITS...
WHAT'S WRONG?
RUN
DANGER
WORDS ARE JUST APPEARING IN MY HEAD
DANGER
DANGER
RUN
THE SPIRITS ARE AFRAID OF SOMETHING...
THEY SAID IT'S COMING...
IT'S COMING!
COMING
YOU CAN SEE SPIRITS?!
!?

WHAT'S-
IF I

IF
ONE APPEARS...
I HAD TO DESCRIBE THEM, THEY'RE LIKE ALLIGATORS...
ALL WE CAN DO
IS RUN FOR OUR LIVES...
ガルルル…